

The word isotype, compounded from the Greek, means "equivalent to the type." To offset the objection that a duplicate is not necessarily equivalent to the type, indeed too often is quite different, is the fact that it always *should be* the same and so for the purpose of comparison should be its equal in value. Perhaps the best *raison d'être* which can be urged for a word is its suggestion of an ideal; such a term should emphasize the importance of all duplicates being thoroughly like the type.—FRANCIS W. PENNELL.

## REVIEWS

### Boerker's *Our National Forests*\*

A short popular account of the work of the United States Forest Service on the national forests, by the arboriculturist of the Department of Parks, New York City. The introduction (pp. xiii–xlvii) is followed by four chapters on the creation and organization, the administration, and the protection of the national forests, and the sale and rental of national forest resources. An Appendix of six pages contains a tabular statement of land areas within the national forest boundaries.

The book, well illustrated, brings together in small compass, reliable information on a subject about which every citizen should be intelligent, but which has hitherto been largely inaccessible on account of being widely scattered in Government bulletins and reports. Some of the information will be a revelation to perhaps the majority of readers. For example, we learn (p. 72) that the Forest Service has, since 1911, collected over 175,000 pounds of tree seeds for planting, and that 21 tree nurseries, in 1916, had in them over 37 million young trees to be planted in reforestation work. The average layman, who possesses chiefly misinformation concerning the relation of forests to climate, will profit by reading the author's paragraphs on that subject (pp. 89–92). Those who are still skeptical (and there are many such) as to the practical value of preventive and remedial measures for tree diseases and pests will be enlightened to learn, merely as an illustrative example, that an expenditure of only \$3,000

\* *Our National Forests*. By Richard H. Donai Boerker. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1918. \$2.50.

for insect control on about 900 acres in the Klamath National Forest, resulted in a saving of timber to the value of over \$600,000 (p. 96).

Friends of conservation will be interested to learn (p. 114) that a single issue of a New York Sunday paper consumes the trees on about 15 acres of forest. Apropos of this, one may perhaps be pardoned for questioning the wisdom, or the advantage from any point of view, of using eleven pages (pp. lix-lxix) to repeat in full the legends of the 80 illustrations. The analytical table of contents hardly makes up for the absence of an index. Incidentally it might be remarked that the fringed edges (technical term unknown to the reviewer—chewed would be appropriate) make it necessary to use the carpet sweeper and whisk broom after one has spent an hour with the book.

But the few features that may be noted adversely are minor matters in comparison with the general excellence of the book. It gives a terse and readable survey of the history and activities of the Forest Service, and makes clear the need and value of this work. It will be invaluable as a reference book in all colleges and universities, and in public and private libraries. Both the author and the cause of forestry and conservation are to be congratulated.

C. STUART GAGER.

**Harwood's New Creations in Plant Life\***

The revised and enlarged reprint of the first edition of W. S. Harwood's "New Creations in Plant Life" reads like a Florida land investment prospectus or a modern version of "The Arabian Nights."

Mr. Harwood tells the story of Luther Burbank and his work with all the enthusiasm, all the veracity, and all the inspiration one expects from one whose years have been devoted to journalistic effort. In Chapter I is recounted the struggles and tribulations of Burbank, the man, toward accomplishing his life's ideal. "Now and again," Mr. Harwood writes, "arose some pseudo-scientific man who, professing unlimited friendship,

\* Harwood, W. S. *New Creations in Plant Life*. 2d ed., Revised and Enlarged. Pp. xviii + 430. Illustrated. The Macmillan Co., N. Y. 1918. Price \$2.00.